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## MINUTES

### WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE NOVEMBER 8, 2021 MEETING HELD ON ZOOM

A meeting of the **WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE** was held on **NOVEMBER 8, 2021** on **ZOOM**. Members attending via Zoom were Doreen DeFazio, Cherilyn Reno, Andy Jefferson, and Kevin Gallagher. This constituted a quorum. Cindy Ide from the Municipal Center also attended and hosted the Zoom call.

Chairman DeFazio called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

#### **Agenda Item: Minutes**

The minutes for the September 29th meeting were briefly reviewed and discussed. Andy Jefferson moved that the minutes be approved as presented, with the changes discussed. Kevin Gallagher seconded. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

#### **Agenda Item: Reorganization**

Reorganization of the Committee was discussed. It was decided that reorganization was not called for at this time. The committee plans to continue meeting monthly via Zoom for now.

#### **Agenda Item: Discussion**

Kevin Gallagher led a discussion of the recycling program for batteries and white fluorescent bulbs that has been recently reinstated at the new DPW facility. Mr. Gallagher indicated that he had not received an invoice from the company processing these materials, so it is unclear how much the program will cost the town. Because of these potential costs, there is a concern that businesses and persons not residing in Grafton will take advantage of the program. Cindy Ide

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informed the committee that the town does get reimbursed for light bulbs that are recycled in this way.

The committee transitioned into a discussion of the recycling program at the DPW in general. Mr. Gallagher stated that people often dump items that do not belong in the dumpsters provided at the DPW site. Ms. Reno suggested that the committee might use this opportunity to educate the public as to what did and didn't belong in the dumpsters. Placement of items in the dumpsters is currently monitored by senior citizens utilizing the property tax work-off program, but at the previous site, this was a paid DPW position. Andy Jefferson suggested that it is difficult to know which should come first--more outreach to the community would generate more use of the program, which could justify reinstatement of the paid position; however, reinstatement of the position first could prevent over-running the current system, which could happen if outreach was implemented first. Ms. DeFazio stated her belief that many people want to do the right thing and that educating the public on how to use the system properly should help.

Mr. Gallagher stated that the program currently fills 3, 40-foot open dumpsters per week with recycling at the DPW site and will almost certainly fill one additional through the holiday season. Various town facilities such as the schools and municipal center also have their own recycling dumpsters. Ms. DeFazio (?) suggested it might be of use to the committee to have a count of locations from which town recycling/waste is collected and how much this portion of the waste costs.

Ms. DeFazio informed the committee that our current waste management company, EL Harvey, has been bought out by a larger corporation. For the time being, trash will continue to be collected by the same drivers in the same trucks under the current 3-year contract. She proposed that the committee postpone meeting with EL Harvey until they transition fully, so that we can be sure the committee is speaking with the correct representative. Ms. Reno inquired whether EL Harvey's negotiating representative knew about the potential sale at the time the current contract was being negotiated with the town, as that knowledge might have influenced bargaining positions. Ms. DeFazio stated that that information is unknown, but that there is a mechanism by which the town could terminate the contract early, if needed. It was reiterated strongly by all members of the committee that there are no plans for early termination at this time and that the town has full faith and confidence in EL Harvey's contract and services.

**Agenda Item: New Business**

Agenda items for the next meeting and the date/time of the next meeting were discussed. At the next meeting the committee plans to discuss the overall waste management budget of the town. We will also discuss potential methods of outreach and education to inform the town of waste management strategies/possibilities.

The next meeting will be via Zoom date TBD starting at 6 pm.

Ms. Reno moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Andy Jefferson, and carried unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.